

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FDRE-00 HEW-06

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 DHA-02 SCA-01 SCSE-00

EB-07 IO-11 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSC-05

SS-15 CCO-00 SP-02 PC-05 PASS-00 /080 W

----- 098735

O 070115Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9981

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 0853

DEPT PLEASE PASS MANAGUA, SAN JOSE, SAN SALVADOR, TEGUCIGALPA, MEXICO,

USUN NY, USMISSION GENEVA, SECDEF NIACT IMMEDIATE, JCS NIACT
IMMEDIATE, USCINCSO NIACT IMMEDIATE.

AID/AIDAC/PHA/FDRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, GT

SUBJECT: GUATEMALAN EARTHQUAKE - SITREP #4

1. CAUSUALTIES. NATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE OFFICIAL
DEATH TOLL RELEASED 1230 HOURS FEB 6 AS FOLLOWS: GUATEMALA
CITY, 800 (520 REPORTED BY TWO MAIN HOSPITALS PLUS THOSE
REPORTED BY OTHER HOSPITALS AND THOSE NOT PROCESSED BY
HOSPITALS). GUATEMALA DEPARTMENT (EXCLUDING GUATEMALA CITY),
753 (MOSTLY TOWNS OF SAN PEDRO AND SAN JUAN).
CHIMALTENANGO DEPARTMENT, 2,690. JALAPA DEPARTMENT, 17.
SACATEPEQUEZ DEPARTMENT, 486. EL PROGRESO DEPARTMENT,
612 (ALMOST ALL IN TOWN OF EL PROGRESO). CHIQUIMULA
DEPARTMENT, ONE. ZACAPA DEPARTMENT, 130 (MOSTLY IN
TOWN OF GUALAN). EL QUICHE DEPARTMENT, 250 (ALL IN
JOYABAJ, NO REPORTS YET FROM OTHER TOWNS). IZABEL
DEPARTMENT, 15 (ALL IN PUERTO BARRIOS). TOTAL 5,754.

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2. ABOVE DOES NOT RPT NOT INCLUDE CASUALTIES ESTIMATED BY DAST IN CHIMALTENANGO CITY AND PATZICIA TOTALLING 3,000 DEAD AND 37,000 INJURED. INCLUSION OF THOSE REPORTS WOULD BRING OVERALL DEATH TOLL TO 8,760 AND INJURED TO OVER 40,000.

3. NOR DO ABOVE FIGURES INCLUDE ADDITIONAL CASUALTIES RESULTING FROM NOON QUAKE FEB 6.

4. UPI'S PAUL WYATT QUOTES PRESIDENT LAUGERUD AS TELLING HIM FEBRUARY 6, "I CALCULATE THAT NOT LESS THAN 4,000 PEOPLE DIED IN WEDNESDAY'S EARTHQUAKE. OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEHAVED THEMSELVES WONDERFULLY WELL DESPITE ALL THE PAIN AND ANGUISH. THERE HAVE BEEN NO CASES REPORTED OF LOOTING. THERE IS NO MARTIAL LAW; IT IS NOT NECESSARY. WE DO NOT THINK IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO RATION GASOLINE."

5. THIRD COUNTRY RELIEF EFFORTS - PANAMANIAN GOVERNOR'S C-54 ARRIVED 0830 FEBRUARY 6 CARRYING MEDICAL TEAM. AT 1000 FEBRUARY 6 VENEZUELAN C-130 ARRIVED BRINGING RESCUE TEAM, COMMO EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL, BLANKETS, POWDERED MILK, AND OTHER FOOD STAPLES. MEXICAN AIR FORCE C-54 ARRIVED 1420 FEBRUARY 6 CARRYING FOOD AND MEDICINE. ECUADORIAN AIR FORCE C-130 ARRIVED 1520 FEBRUARY 6, BUT CONTENTS OF CARGO UNKNOWN. AT 1800 COSTA RICAN LACSA C-130 ARRIVED CARRYING DOCTORS AND NURSES.

6. ASSISTANCE IN PLACE - THE VENEZUELAN FIELD HOSPITAL IS IN PLACE IN JOYABAJ, QUICHE. TWO HELICOPTERS WITH MEDICINE HAVE FLOWN TO SAN JOSE POAQUIL, CHIMALTENANGO, AND WE BELIEVE MEDICINES ARE VENEZUELAN. SAN MARTIN JILOTEPEQUE, CHIMALTENANGO, HAS RECEIVED 2 HELICOPTERS WITH MEDICINES AND DOCTORS. PATZUN, CHIMALTENANGO, HAS A HEALTH POST MANNED BY 3 DOCTORS FROM GUATEMALAN MILITARY HOSPITAL, BUT THEY LACK MEDICINES AND AMBULANCES TO ASSIST IN THIS ONE OF THE HARDEST-HIT TOWNS. A SMALL NICARAGUAN FIELD HOSPITAL IS IN PLACE IN CHIMALTENANGO. AT SANARATE, EL PROGRESO, 2 HELICOPTERS HAVE DELIVERED DOCTORS, MEDICINES, AND SOME FOOD.

7. ELECTRIC POWER SITUATION. PROJECTS MANAGER OF UNCLASSIFIED

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INDE (GOG ELECTRIC COMPANY) SAID FEB 6 (PRIOR TO 1215 QUAKE) THAT 80 PERCENT OF GUATEMALA'S POWER SYSTEM FUNCTIONING AND ALL GENERATING PLANTS INTACT, WITH EXCEPTION OF SMALL (5MW) HYDROELECTRIC PLANT NEAR PALIN. POWER SUPPLY TO GUATEMALA CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE BACK TO NORMAL IN 5 TO 6 DAYS, ALLOWING FACTORIES TO BEGIN OPERATIONS. AT PRESENT, INSUFFICIENT POWER BEING TRANSMITTED TO RUN FACTORY MACHINERY BECAUSE OF

DAMAGE TO KEY SUBSTATION. PARTS FOR SUBSTATION EXPECTED
FROM SPAIN ON FEB 9. MOST SERIOUS DAMAGE WAS
DESTRUCTION OF TRANSMISSION LINES TO ZACAPA WHICH ALSO
FEED BAJA VERAPAZ AND ALTA VERAPAZ. THIS WILL
REQUIRE 3 TO 4 MONTHS TO REPAIR. FUEL FOR THERMAL
GENERATING PLANTS NOT SEEN AS PROBLEM SINCE IT ALSO
COMES FROM TEXACO REFINERY IN ESCUINTLA.
MELOY

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED SECDEF, JCS.

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